

The Merton Population

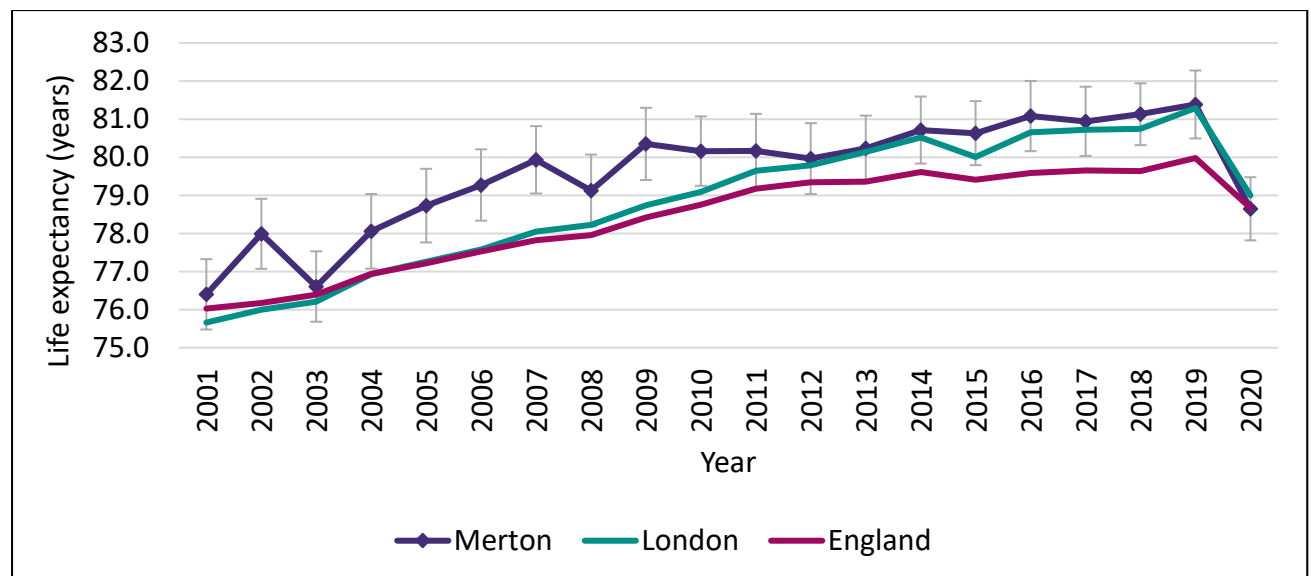
Inequalities

Life Expectancy

The coronavirus pandemic led to a far greater number of deaths in total and a higher rate of death in 2020 compared with previous recent years. It affected male mortality more than female mortality in the UK which is why life expectancy for males have fallen back¹.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework dashboard from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) have highlighted male life expectancy at birth and for 65 years only due to decreases between 2019 and 2020 in Merton (Figure 1 & Figure 2).

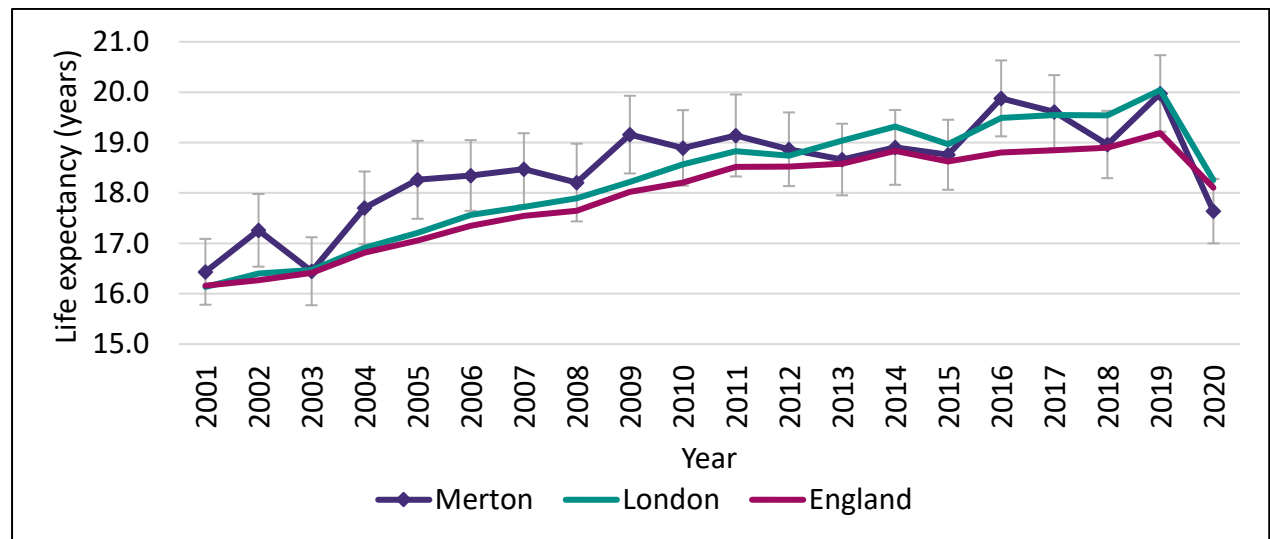
Figure 1: Life Expectancy at birth (years), for males all ages in Merton, London, and England, OHID².



In 2020, life expectancy at birth in males (Figure 1) in Merton was 78.6 years and was similar to London (79 years) and England (78.7 years). Trends since 2001 have been generally increasing and were significantly higher than the England level. However, in 2020 there has been a significant decline of 2.8 years from 81.4 years in 2019. A decline in male life expectancy can also be seen regionally and nationally between 2019 and 2020².

Life expectancy at birth for females in Merton has also decreased between 2020 (83.5 years) and 2019 (84.7 years) by 1.2 years and a decline can also be seen for the same period regionally from 85.0 years to 83.5 years and nationally from 83.6 years to 82.6 years. In 2020, life expectancy at birth in females in Merton (83.5 years) was similar to London (83.5 years) and England (82.6 years)².

Figure 2: Life Expectancy at 65 (years) for males in Merton, London, and England, OHID².



In 2020, male life expectancy at 65 years (Figure 2) in Merton was 17.6 years and was similar to London (18.3 years) and England (18.1 years) and trends since 2001 have been generally increasing however, in 2020 there has been a decline of 2.4 years in life expectancy from 20 years in 2019. A decline in life expectancy can also be seen regionally and nationally between 2019 and 2020¹.

Female life expectancy at 65 years in Merton has decreased by 1.1 years between 2020 at 21.0 years and 2019 at 22.1 years. A decline in life expectancy at 65 years in females can be seen regionally and nationally².

Figure 3: Map Male Life Expectancy by MSOA based on the old ward boundaries, 2015-19, OHID².

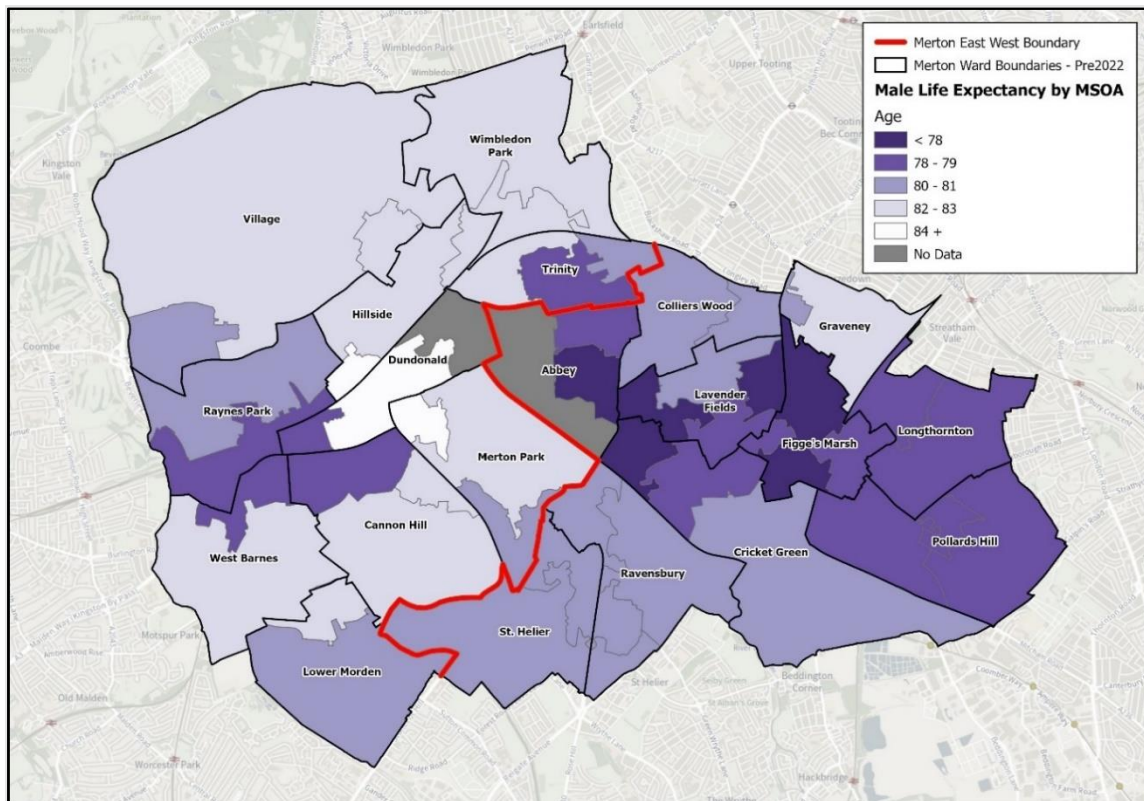


Figure 3 and Figure 4 show male life expectancy (Figure 3 is based on the old ward boundaries and Figure 4 is based on the new ward boundaries) by MSOA which is overall lower in East Merton, but some MSOAs in West Merton also have a lower life expectancy. Abbey, Lavender Fields, Cricket Green, Graveney and Figge's Marsh wards have MSOAs with the lowest life expectancy in males in East Merton².

Figure 4: Map Male Life Expectancy by MSOA based on the new ward boundaries, 2015-19, OHID².

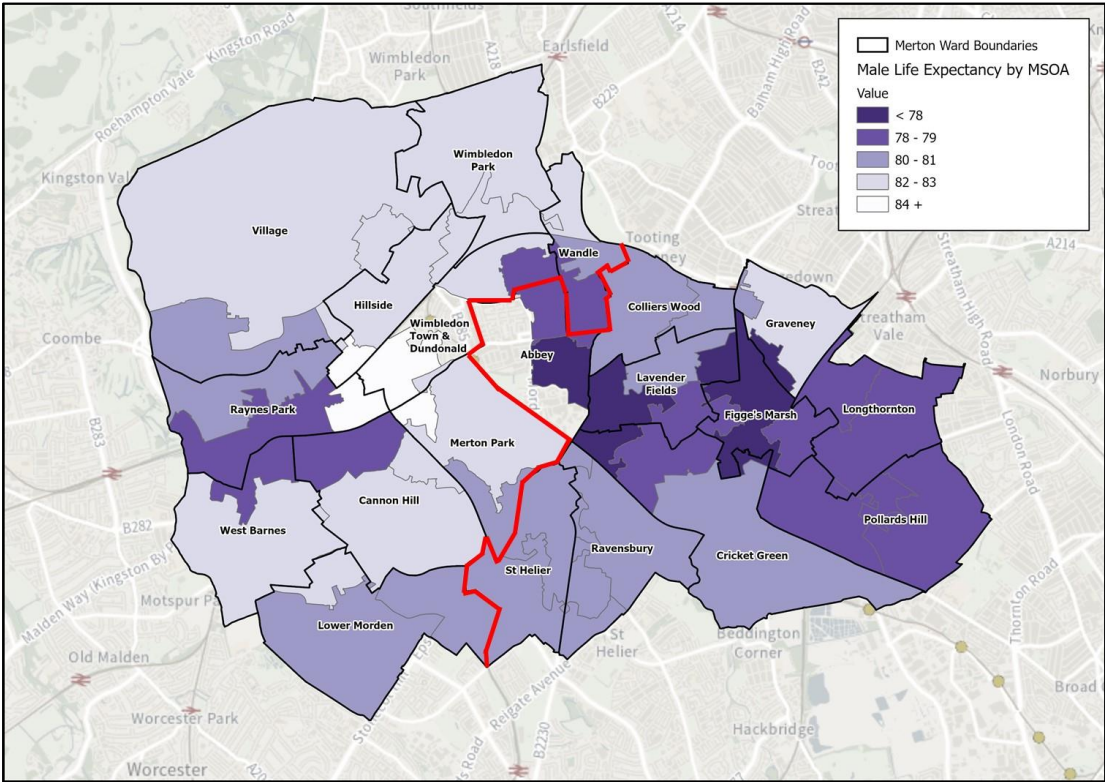


Figure 5: Map Female Life Expectancy by MSOA based on the old ward boundaries, 2015-19, OHID².

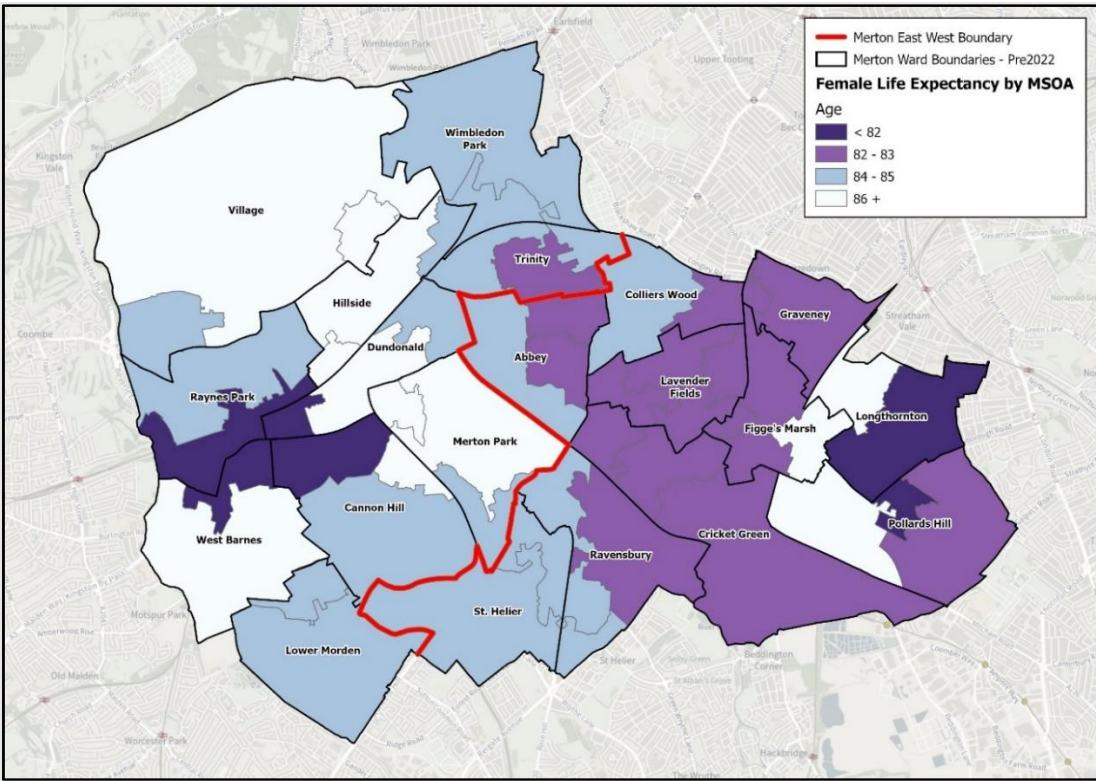
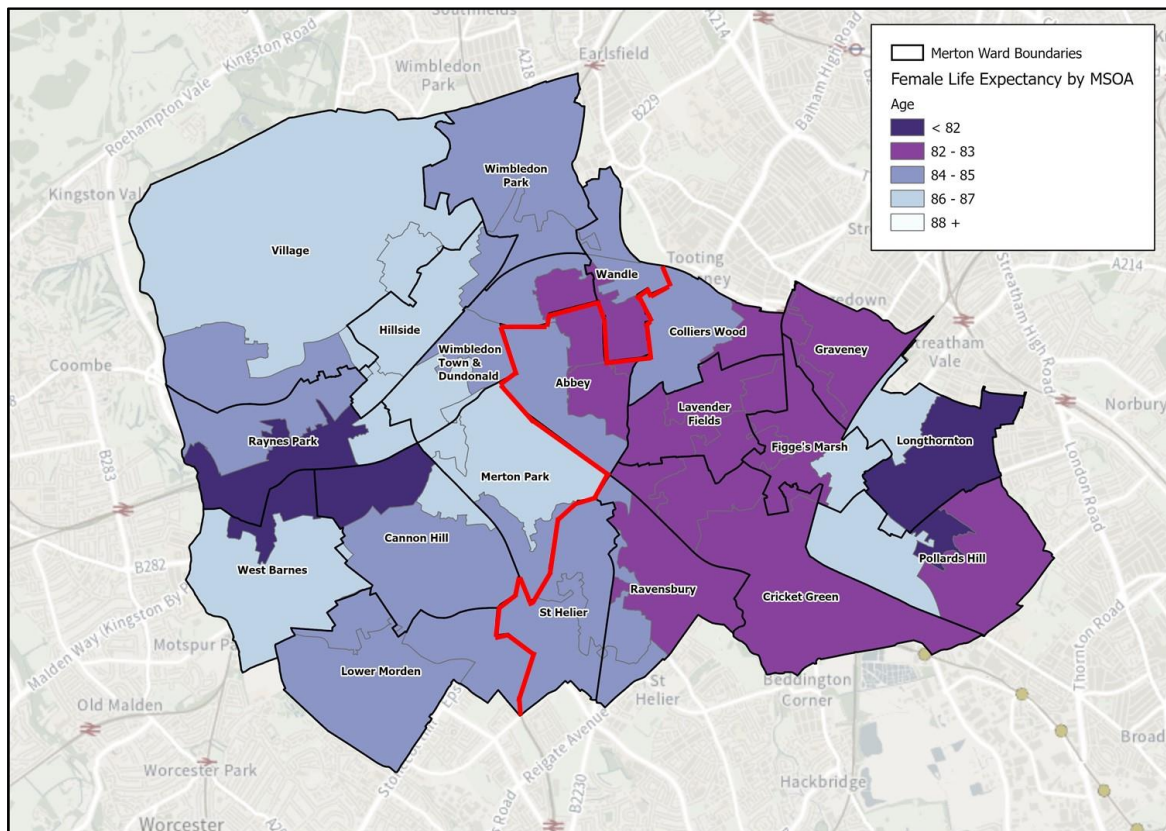


Figure 5 & Figure 6 show female life expectancy (Figure 5 is based on the old ward boundaries and Figure 6 is based on the new ward boundaries) by MSOA which is overall lower in East Merton but some wards in West Merton also have a lower life expectancy. Raynes Park, West Barnes, Canon Hill, Dundonald wards in West Merton and Longthornton and Pollards Hill wards in East Merton have MSOAs with the lowest life expectancy in females².

Figure 6: Map Female Life Expectancy by MSOA based on the new ward boundaries, 2015-19, OHID².



Healthy Life Expectancy

Healthy life expectancy (HLE) is a measure of mortality and morbidity, it shows the years a person can expect to live in good health rather than with a disability or in poor health³. Healthy life expectancy estimates lifetime spent in “Very good” or “Good” health based on how individuals perceive their general health⁴.

Figure 7: Healthy life expectancy (years) for males in Merton between 2009 to 2020 including London and England comparisons. Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, Public Health Outcomes Framework³.

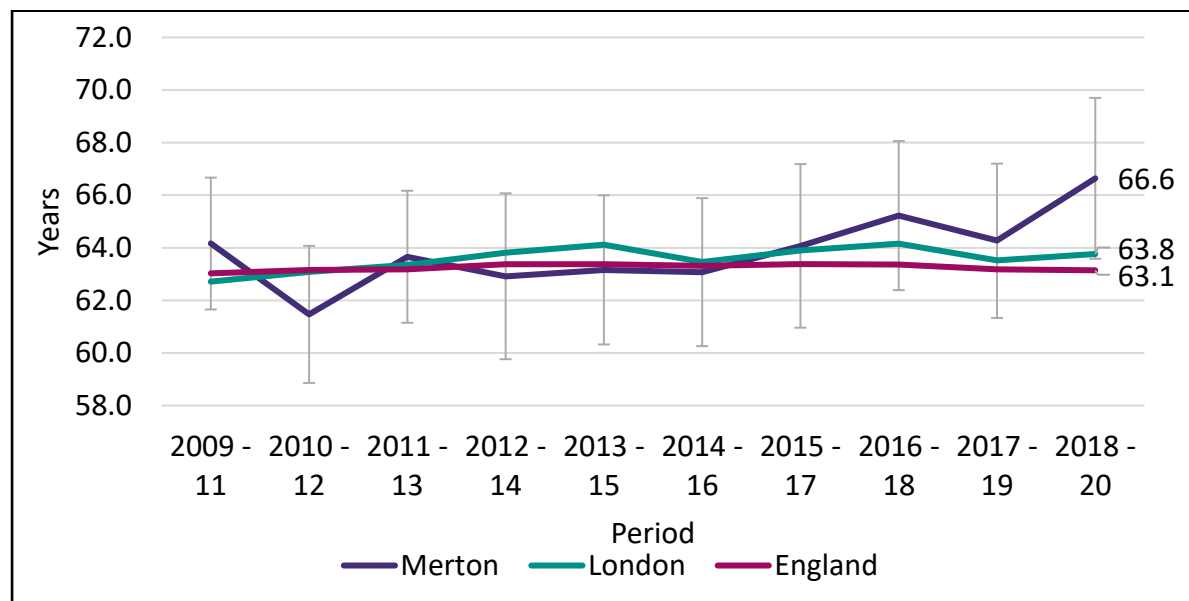
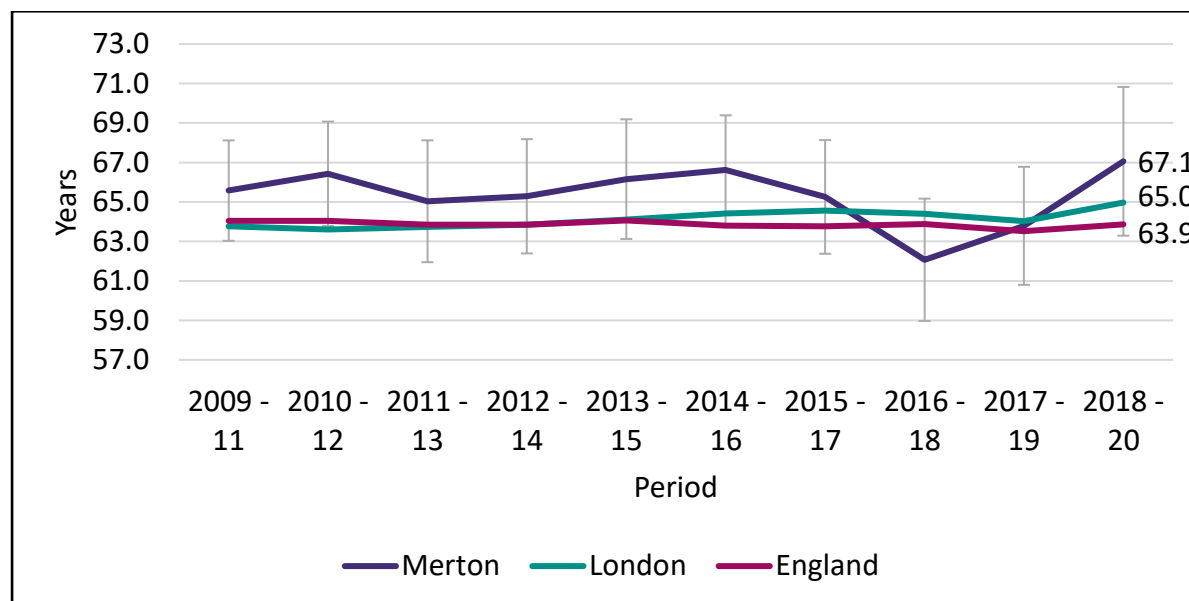


Figure 8: Healthy life expectancy (years) for females in Merton between 2009 to 2020 including London and England comparisons. Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, Public Health Outcomes Framework⁵.



Healthy life expectancy for males in Merton was 66.6 years in 2018-20 and was similar to London (63.8 years) and higher than England (63.1 years)³ (Figure 7). Healthy life expectancy for females in Merton was 67.1 years in 2018-20 and was similar to London (65 years) and

England (63.9 years)⁵ (Figure 8). Since 2016-18, trends show a yearly increase in healthy life expectancy for females in Merton, whereas for males this has remained similar.

Slope Index of Inequality (Inequality in Life Expectancy at Birth)

Inequalities in life expectancy can also be analysed by looking at the slope index of inequality and life expectancy inequality gap analysis. Slope index of inequality (SII) is an overarching measure of the life expectancy inequality gap and represents the gap in years of life expectancy at birth between the most and least deprived communities and is a single score representing the absolute gap in life expectancy at birth between the 10% most deprived and 10% least deprived areas. It is a measure of the social gradient in life expectancy, i.e., how much life expectancy varies with deprivation – the larger the SII score (in years), the greater the disparity in life expectancy².

Figure 9: Slope Index of Inequality for males in Merton, London, and England, 2010-2020, OHID².

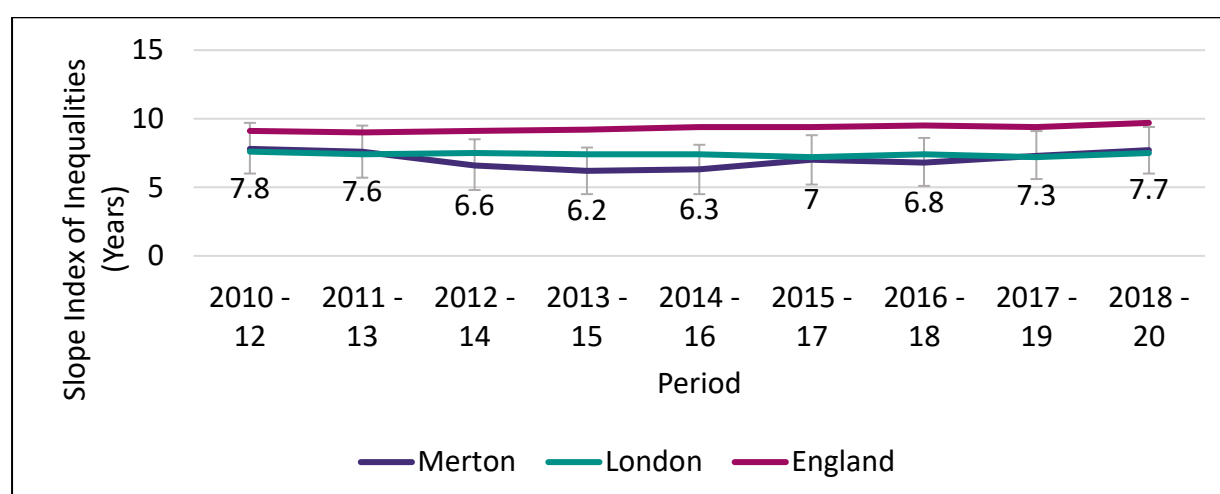
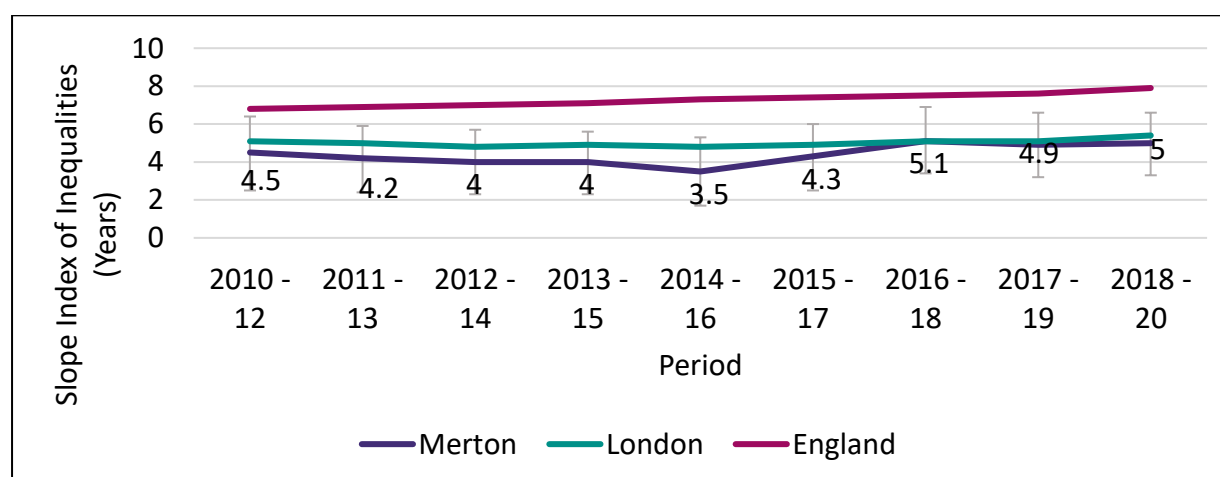


Figure 10: Slope Index of Inequality for females in Merton, London, and England, 2010-2020, OHID².



In 2018-20, the Slope index of inequality (Figure 9 & Figure 10) for the gap in life expectancy between people living in the most and least deprived tenths of areas in Merton was 5 years for females and 7.7 years for males. For males, Merton (7.7 years) is similar to London (7.5 years) and significantly lower and is better than England (9.7 years). For females, Merton (5 years) is similar to London (5.4 years) and significantly lower and is better than England (7.9 years)². Since 2010-12 there is no clear trend in the gap between the 10% most and 10% least deprived communities in Merton for both males and females².

The ONS have identified a widening gap in disparity in both male and female life expectancy at birth between the most and least deprived areas in England during the period 2015/17 to 2018/20⁶.

Life expectancy inequality gap analysis in Merton

Inequalities in Merton can be assessed by gap analysis presenting the difference between the average of the 30% most deprived and the average of the 30% least deprived wards based on the index of multiple deprivation 2019 deciles.

Table 1 shows those wards in the 30% most and 30% least deprived wards in Merton. The inequality gap analysis is based on the old ward boundaries as new ward boundary data is not yet available.

Table 1: Wards in Merton split by deprivation decile, based on the 2019 IMD deciles⁷.

Decile		Ward Name	Locality
30% Most Deprived	4	Cricket Green	East
	4	Figge's Marsh	East
	4	Ravensbury	East
	4	St Helier	East
	5	Pollard's Hill	East
	5	Lavender Fields	East
	6	Longthornton	East
	6	Colliers Wood	East
	7	Graveney	East
	8	Abbey	East
	8	Lower Morden	West
	8	Cannon Hill	West
	8	Raynes Park	West
	8	Trinity	West
30% Least Deprived	9	West Barnes	West
	9	Wimbledon Park	West
	9	Merton Park	West
	9	Hillside	West
	9	Dundonald	West
	9	Village	West

The IMD deciles are based on a scale from one to ten with one representing the most deprived and ten representing the least deprived. In Merton, our most deprived wards fall within decile 4 and the least deprived in decile 9. There are pockets of deprivation at lower geographies within Merton than ward level ranging from deciles two to ten.

The 30% most deprived wards are in deciles 4-5 (Cricket Green, Figge's Marsh, Ravensbury, St Helier, Pollards Hill, and Lavender Fields) and the 30% least deprived wards are in decile 9 (West Barnes, Wimbledon Park, Merton Park, Hillside, Dundonald and Village). Based on

this, information the average 30% most deprived and the average 30% least deprived the life expectancy gap is 2.6 years for females and for 3.8 years for males and is lower for both males and females as expected than the slope index of inequality for males (7.7 years) and females (5 years)². This is because the slope index compares 10% of the most deprived deprivation deciles in an area with the 10% least deprived and therefore, shows a steeper gradient in inequality compared the average of the 30% most and the average of the 30% least deprived.

Deprivation in Merton (IMD 2019)

Figure 11 & Figure 12 are maps that look at deprivation (Figure 11 is based on the old ward boundaries and Figure 12 is based on the new ward boundaries) by LSOAs and wards which have higher levels of deprivation in East Merton. There are also some LSOAs in wards in West Merton that have high deprivation such as Raynes Park and Canon Hill⁷.

Figure 11: Map Deprivation (IMD) Decile by LSOA and Ward, based on the old ward boundaries, 2019, Gov.UK⁷.

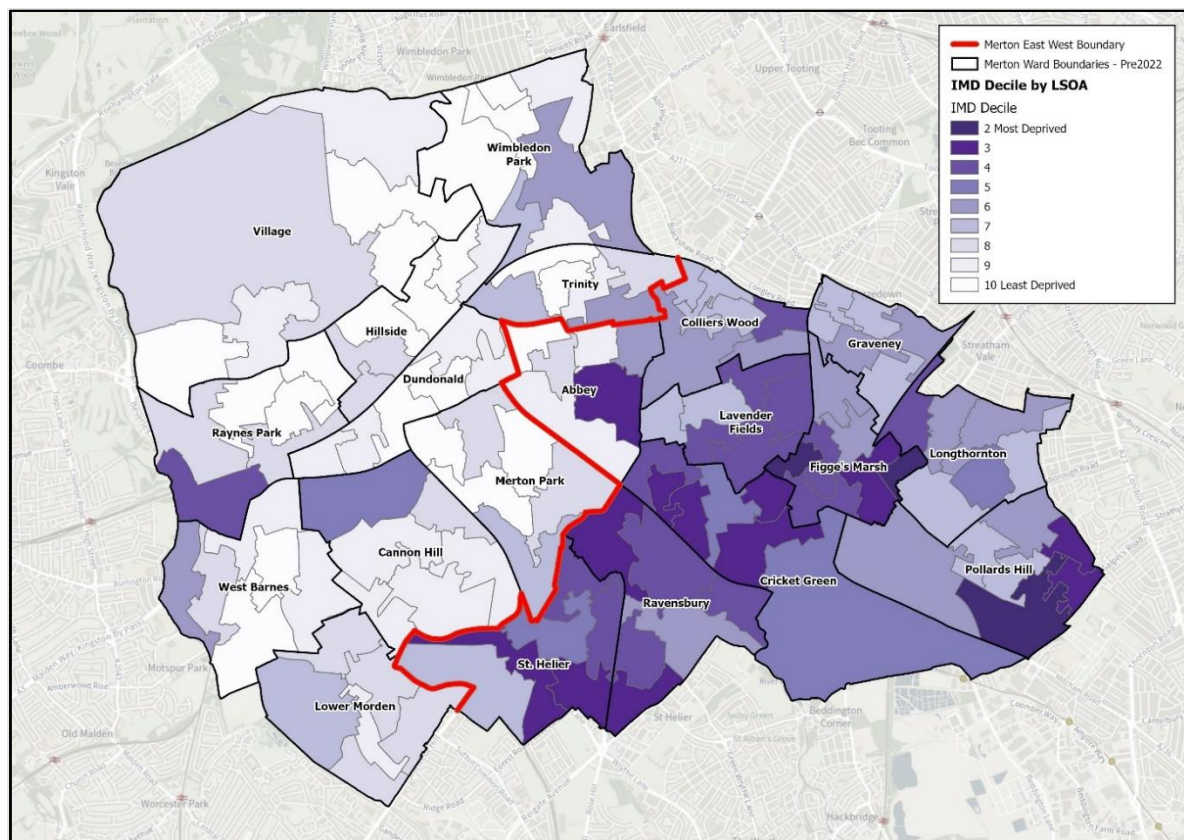
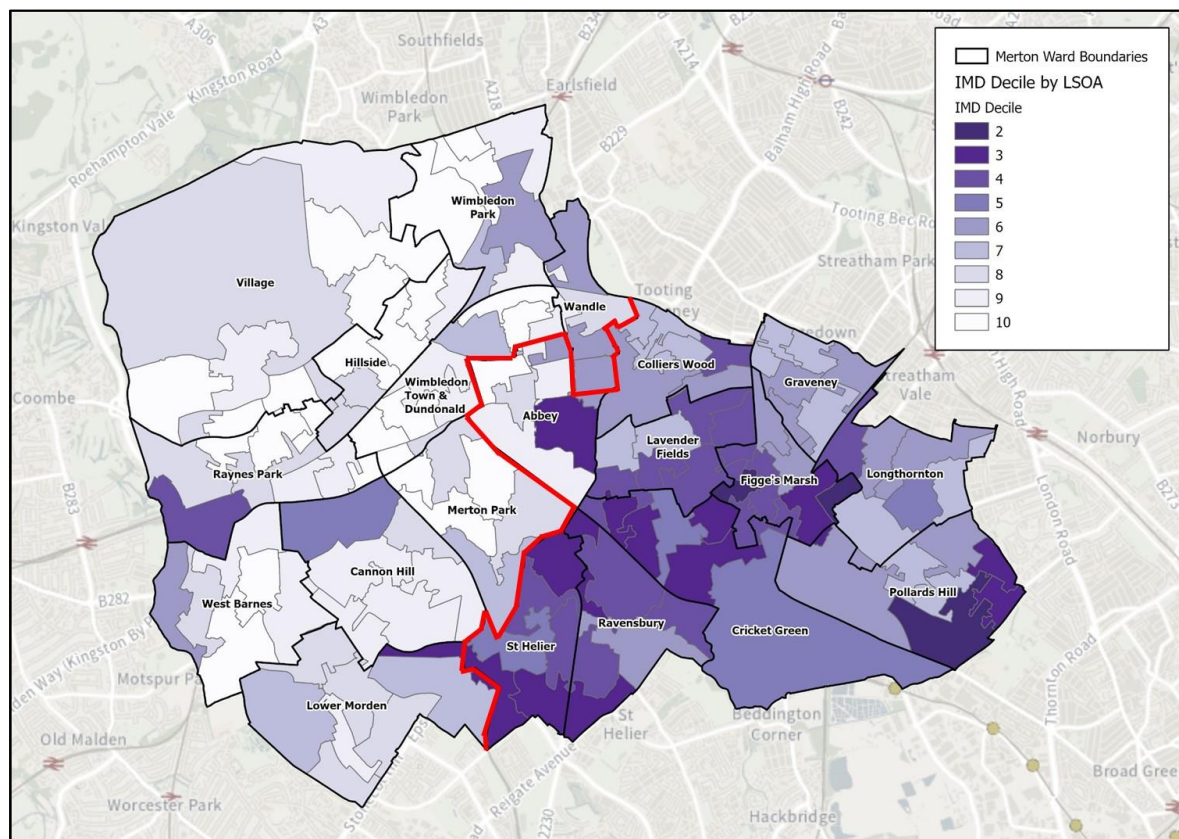


Figure 12: Map Deprivation (IMD) Decile by LSOA and Ward, based on the new ward boundaries, 2019, Gov.UK⁷.



What is the Core20PLUS5

The Core20PLUS5 is a national NHS England and NHS Improvement approach to support the reduction of health inequalities at both national and system level. The approach defines a target population cohort called the 'Core20PLUS5' – and identifies '5' focus clinical areas requiring accelerated improvement.

The Core 20 represents the most deprived 20% of the national population as identified by the national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)⁸. The IMD has seven domains with indicators accounting for a wide range of social determinants of health.

The PLUS population groups identifies ethnic minority communities; inclusion health groups; people with learning disabilities and/or autism; coastal communities with pockets of deprivation hidden amongst relative affluence; people with multi-morbidities; and protected characteristic groups; amongst others. Inclusion health groups include people experiencing homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system, victims of modern slavery and other socially excluded groups⁹.

The 5 sets out five clinical areas of focus. Governance for these five focus areas sits with national programmes; national and regional teams coordinate local systems to achieve national aims. These are:

Maternity: ensuring continuity of care for 75% of women from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and from the most deprived groups.

Severe mental illness (SMI): ensuring annual health checks for 60% of those living with SMI (bringing SMI in line with the success seen in learning disabilities).

Chronic respiratory disease: a clear focus on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) driving up uptake of COVID, flu and pneumonia vaccines to reduce infective exacerbations and emergency hospital admissions due to those exacerbations.

Early cancer diagnosis: 75% of cases diagnosed at stage 1 or 2 by 2028.

Hypertension case-finding: to allow for interventions to optimise blood pressure and minimise the risk of myocardial infarction and stroke¹⁰.

Where are our Core20 population of 340,000 located?

29,000 people of the 340,000 Core20 population in South West London are located in East Merton. The characteristics of the 29,000 people in East Merton are: ethnically diverse, significant school aged population, older working age population (44-64 years) and deprivation in housing.

Please note that, apart from Borough level total population, Census 2021 data and information has not been included as limited data has been released and is undergoing validation. We recommend that Census 2021 data is included in the next Merton Story 2023. Additionally, life expectancy at birth will need to be monitored closely and information to be included in the next Merton Story 2023.

Further information

- Please see the Health Inequalities Annual Public Health Report 2017/18 here: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/healthy-living/publichealth/annual-report>
- Please refer to the Population Size and Growth chapter
- NHS England information on Core20Plus5: [NHS England, Core20PLUS5 – An approach to reducing health inequalities \(www.england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/core20plus5/)
- South West London Integrated Care Partnership Meeting Pack: [SWL-ICP-in-public-meeting-pack-13072022.pdf \(southwestlondonics.org.uk\)](https://southwestlondonics.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SWL-ICP-in-public-meeting-pack-13072022.pdf)
- Please refer to the sub chapters on Start Well, Live Well & Age Well which have more information around the five clinical areas of focus

References

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- ¹ Has the Coronavirus pandemic caused life expectancy in the UK to fall? [Internet]. Office for National Statistics. 2021 [cited 28 September 2022]. Available from: <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2021/09/23/has-the-coronavirus-pandemic-caused-life-expectancy-in-the-uk-to-fall/>
- ² Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Public Health Outcomes Framework [Internet]. Fingertips. [cited 28 September 2022]. Available from: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework>
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- ⁹ Inclusion Health: applying All Our Health [Internet]. GOV.UK; 2021 [cited 28 September 2022]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusion-health-applying-all-our-health/inclusion-health-applying-all-our-health>
- ¹⁰ NHS England » Core20PLUS5 – An approach to reducing health inequalities [Internet]. NHS England. [cited 28 September 2022]. Available from:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/national-healthcare-inequalities-improvement-programme/core20plus5/#:~:text=Core20PLUS5%20is%20a%20national%20NHS,clinical%20areas%20requiring%20accelerated%20improvement>